

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 9 and 11 – 14 are currently pending in this application, as amended. Claims 1 – 3, 6, 8 – 9 and 12 –13 have been amended. Claims 4 and 10 have been previously cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

Examiner Interview

The undersigned and Applicant's representative, Christoph Weis, conducted an in-person interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor, Davis Hwu, at the U.S.P.T.O. on April 28, 2009. During the interview, amendments to the claims were discussed in view of cited U.S. Patent No. 6,126,093 to Grether (it is noted that Christoph Weis is a co-inventor of this patent) and U.S. Patent No. 6,513,731 to Griffin. Additionally, a working sample of the claimed functional plumbing unit and a segment of an armature in which it fits were demonstrated and discussed with the Examiner. The working sample was also disassembled to show further details. An agreement was reached with respect to claim 1 and is reflected in the above amendment.

The undersigned and Applicant's representative, Christoph Weis, wish to thank the Examiner and Supervisor Hwu for the courtesies extended during the interview. If the Examiner believes that a further interview, either telephonically

or in person, will help to resolve any potential issues in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5 – 9 and 11 – 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,126,093 to Grether et al. (Grether et al. '093) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,731 to Griffin et al. (Griffin et al.)

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Grether et al. '093 in view of Griffin et al., as applied to claim 1 and further in view of US. Patent No. 6,152,182 to Grether et al. (Grether et al. '182).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1, has been amended in accordance with language agreed upon during the interview that distinguishes over the prior art. Claim 1 currently recites a plumbing spout device including a mounting sleeve having an external thread, which is connected to a water spout, having an internal thread, of a plumbing water spout fitment via a screw connection. The plumbing spout device also includes a flow rectifying device, and an attachment screen being connected upstream of the flow rectifying device in a direction of flow. The flow rectifying device is provided as a perforated plate and has a perforated area at least in a partial region thereof. An

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outflow-side of the flow rectifying device is arranged at an outlet of the mounting sleeve and the flow rectifying device is integral with the mounting sleeve. The spout device also includes a contoured outer end face tool attachment surface projecting beyond the thread in the outlet direction for a tool insert.

Based on the amendment to claim 1 above, that includes the language discussed and agreed upon during the interview, the claim now differentiates over Grether and Griffin and withdrawal of the U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claims 1-3, 5 – 9 and 11 – 14 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 – 3, 5 – 9 and 11 – 14, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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